

### THREE FRANCS ON HER BLOOMERS.

## PARISIAN PAWN SHOPS | necessity and felly go hand in hand, and that greed and cunning are always dogging at their heels.

HOW THE GOVERNMENT LOANS MONEY

An Indirect Aid to the Rapacious Private Pawnbrokers.

SELLING THEIR TICKETS



PARIS, July 30, 1806. N PARIS THERE are no private pawn shops. One great concern, whose administration is watched over by the government and whose profits go largely to public charities, has had for more than a hundred years the monopoly of loaning

erporation are appointed government and the civil service system reigns over the appointment of its clerks and their promotion. Its capital is not government money, but is represented by stockholders willing to take an interest rate of from 2 to 3 per cent. and of all these stockholders the Comedie-Francaise, the state subventioned theater. thus obtained by the corporation of Mont-de-Piete is, of course, loaned out by it at a higher rate of interest to people who are fortunate enough to have something to put in pawn.

The ticket which the clerk will hand you for your watch bears in large type at the top, "The French Republic-Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." And the words beneath it, in larger letters still, are even more consoling, "Mountain of This is an old name in the Latin arguages for pawn shops run by government, a poetic phrase coined by that pope who first had the idea of freeing from the grip of usurers. "plety" is not religious plety, of course but plety in the sense of natural duty and compassion, as when we say maternal or filial piety. In Italian the name is Monte-



Waiting.

de-Pieta, in Spanish Monte-de-Piedad, in French Mont-de-Piete, always the "mountain," which is literature, and the "p'ety," which is, or ought to be, a solid fact. From "mountain" we perhaps get the phrase to "put up," e.g., "I have put up my watch," although the French now say "I have hung up my watch."

## Long-Continued Loans.

There are people in Paris now living who have had their father's watch or other heirloom soaking on the mountain a watch to have been originally worth \$10. five responsible appraisers, handling each The Mont-de-Piete charges 3 per cent a year for interest. 8 per cent a year again for storage and 1 per cent a year for state tax, making 7 per cent a year in all. The man who has not seen his watch for forty years would therefore have paid out in Paris something like \$24. If it is true that the interest and stormer of New York that the interest and storage of New York pawn shops run into 75 per cent a year, he would have paid out something like \$230

Had it been mattresses, bed clothes, tools or any such article of prime necessity, these Paris record holders would have had three opportunities of getting them out free in the past forty years. From the first days of the first republic to the present date it has been customary every now and then to make a kind of general jail delivery of useful objects held in pawn, the money for the purpose coming either from a parliamentary decree or being raised by popu-lar subscription. The last three charities of the kind were in 1850, 1871 and 1879. In 1871 the money came from the English As-sociation, which, under Sir Richard Wailace, did such great work in relieving the miseries of the slege. In 1879, a winter of great cold and destitution, a sum of money voted by the Paris municipality was more than tripled by a popular subscription or-ganized by the popular one-cent daily newspaper, the Petit Journal. The fact that since the winter of 1879 there has been no since the winter of 1879 there has been no more of this setting free of pawned goods depends on a curious twist of modern commercial activity. It is asserted that nowadays few of the actual pledgers of the freed goods would get the benefit of such a good work. This is owing to the pernicious industry of speculation in pawn tickets, which had already grown up in 1879, and which had already grown up in 1879, and which is in full flourish at the present day. which had already grown up in 1879, and which is in full flourish at the present day. It is a notable example of the fact that praisers have a special temptation to ap-

Pawn Their Tickets. It is a fact that all the careful planning Patrons of the Great "Mont-de- of the French government is very much thwarted by the improvidence of men who, after having pawned their goods, will go and pawn the tickets.

The authorities of the Mont-de-Piete deplere this practice, which nullifies their work and makes their position almost use-less. They say that their regulations, print-ed on each ticket, indicate a much better way of realizing the last penny or an ar-



money on pledged objects. The head oration are appointed and the civil service the appointment of ticle already pawned. Their oritics answer

central office building and storehouse com-bined, and nineteen branches in the differ-Francaise, the state subventioned theater, is the heaviest, having about \$2,000,000 of these, the sights and sounds and smells of its funds thus invested. The money central hall with seldom less than twenty people sitting patiently. Hard luck's free masonry makes strangers strike up confi-dential chats to while away the time. Meanwhile the civil service functionaries smoke their cigarettes, dream of their girls and their promotion, and move about their business with a deliberation that would cause the discharge of any clerk in private employment. Mingled here and there with honest working people are men who pawn their household furniture to go on drinking. The sad-faced women, clutching nervously at their bundles, have the same look throughout the world. Here all sit or stand in full view of each other. Everything is open to the day. Each sitter knows exactly what his neighbor gets on his article.

"Next!" A wicket opens. An official face appears and an official voice cries out the French equivalent of "Next!" It is a lady with an eight-day clock, all gilded with recoco scrolls and a coquettish shepherdess in gilt on top. The clock has disappeared, and the poor pledger has a round brass ticket given her to represent it.

A man hands in a meerschaum pipe, accepts his ticket, and shuffles back. He is an absinthe fiend and appears to be uneasy. He does not like to wait the ap-

A smart young servant girl comes trip-ping, and hands in, with a saucy gibe, some railway bond or share in one of those joint stock companies in which the French, even to domestic servants, love to invest their savings. She knows exactly what she ought to get on the share. She will not sell the ticket afterward. Oh, no! She might go for the money to a bank or agent de change; but they would charge her as high for the accommodation, and she knows that the Mont-de-Piete is sure. She wants a loan on this bond or piece of stock in order to get the money to be-gin buying another. It is a specimen of feminine financiering, and a favorite da-vice to force oneself to new economies. A man across the hall calls out the numbers. Those who have their brass numbers step up to him. "No. 84—ten francs!" It is for the clock. "Accepted?" "Accepted." The man who handed in the pipe is offered four francs on it. He accepts, but still must wait. He grows more nervous, and mumbles against bureaucracy. every one accepts, and every one must

waft on longer. A Quiet Routine.

All goes by routine, and very quiet and decent. The official at the window spends his days in simply taking in the offered forty years. They keep the interest up articles and giving out the numbered brass and hope for better days. Supposing such | checks for them. Behind the scenes sit



article in turn. The rule established for the appraising of silverware or jewelry in gold and silver is four-fifths of their weight value; for all other articles two-thirds of their estimated value at an auotion sale. As may be readily guessed, the "official" value of a pawned object scarcecorresponds at the Mont-de-Piete with the hopes of its owner. Yet there is no appeal, no haggling. Now and then a humorous person wants to argue, but his time is lost. You take what is offered or

praise an object low. If they estimate it too high, and a loss results to the administration, the appraisers would have to make up the sum out of their private pockets. This, which seems to be a necessary rule, is at the bottom of the ticket speculation.

Beauties of Lake Maragaino and Its

pockers. Inis, which seems to be a necessary rule, is at the bottom of the ticket speculation.

The lady who has changed her clock worth fifty francs against ten francs and a ticket is confronted on the street by several establishments immediately beside the Mort-de-Piete, not only by the establishments themselves, but by their agents and runners. These establishments look exactly like the pawn shops of America and England. They have the same dirty show windows, in which lie exposed a mass of miscellaneous jewelry, opera glasses, bric-a-brac, revolvers, knives, fans and such strayed valuables. These things are all for sale. All have been pawned some time or another at the Mont-de-Piete, all have come here from the official French loan office. Money has been loaned on their tickets where it was forbidden to loan money on the original articles. The poor woman of the glided clock either knows this or it will soon be told her by one of the rival runners. Of course, she wants more than ten francs on her clock. She had expected to get twenty. The Mont-de-Piete has given her only ten. This pawn shop in the second degree will lend her three or four francs more on the ticket, or they will buy her ticket from her outright for a slightly larger sum. They prefer to lend a few francs, hoping she will never come back.

Cause and Effect. The system of the Mont-de-Piete is admirable, complete and perfect; yet it could scarcely hit off better the convenience of these rapacious speculators had it been designed specially to please them. It seems to be the fact that human greed and necessity, combined with human laziness and unfaithfulness, can injure every philanthropic plan which human judgment can build up. The appraisers of the Mont-de-Plete can scarcely be blamed for being what they are-unenthus astic and lazy government clerks. The poor man who has

government clerks. The poor man who has not received as much on his article as he expected can scarcely be blamed for yielding to the temptation of the ticket speculator. And the latter naturally brings to his business more painstaking and acuteness than can be expected in the daily routine of the Mont-de-Piete.

Thus the appraisers sit all day beside their tables, handling dirty mattresses and second-hand garments, not to speak of diamonds, jewelry, crockery, household furniture, musical instruments and all the rest. They lend money on pension papers, on stocks and bonds and on insurance policies. Their spokesman is always calling out to the waiting public: "No. 138. Five francs! Accepted?" "No. 139. Four hundred francs. Accepted?"

Small and Large Loans. No. 138 takes his five francs and his ticket. They do not even ask your name when it is under five francs. But when No. 139 is called-400 francs on a diamond ring-he is put through an inquisition. Suppose it be an actor from New York, caught short on his summer European trip. As he does not speak much French the conversation is all the longer. To be brief, the rule is that for every sum above five francs the pledger is required to give substantial evidence of his identity. Sometimes a passport is sufficient for a foreigner. Old letters are hardly evidence in the case of a large sum. The French themselves are regularly required to hand in one or the other of their "papers"—their registry of birth, certificate of military service, marriage certificate, or, at a ninch pinch, a rent receipt or other stamped document which has passed through the hands of third parties. There is another differor third parties. There is another difference between small loans and large loans. On pledges of two, three and four francs, if they be redeemed before the expiration of two months, no interest or other charges whatsoever are demanded by the Mont-de-Piete. This is a great boon to petty borrowers who are always taking things in and cut.

Conditions of the Transaction.

2. The administration takes 3 per cent interest and 3 per cent for expenses per year, the charges to be proportional to the num-ber of fortnights which pass. Each fortnight once begun must be paid for entire. Pledges of less than five francs, not staying more than two months in pawn, pay no in-

3. There is a fixed state tax of 1 per cent on the amount of all loans.

4. Every pawned object which is not remorth. However, it is permitted the pledger to demand the sale of his article at the official auction within three months of the date of pawning. The benus realized at such sale, of course, goes to the pledger.

5. If the sale of a pledged article brings



The Scalper: "Tickets Bought."

an amount greater than the sum loaned. even though it has been forfeited, the excess (called "boni") remains at the disposition of the pledger. But every boni which is not claimed within three years belongs to the public charities fund of the Mont-de-

Does not everything seem well arranged for the poor people who are obliged to frequent their "uncle" in France? Take what is offered to you and wait for the rest three months. Your article will be sold at auction, and after deducting interest and expenses at the low rate of 7 per cent a year the whole balance will be given to you. It is very just and reasonable. But the appraisers are conservative and only shield themselves and their establishment from loss. And the runners of the ticket speculators' shops are just outside the door. And so here, as in other lands where pawn shops are for private profit, the unthrifty lese their valuable objects and no one can STERLING HEILIG.

No More Midnight Falls. From the Chicago Evening Post. She watched him put the package away

carefully, and, womanlike, she was curious,

"What is it?" she asked.

"Phosphorus," he replied. "What do you intend to do with it?" she persisted. "Last night," he explained, with delib-

eration, in the tone of a man who felt that | lake, at the castle of San Carlos, is so shalhe had a grievance, "I came home late." "As usual."

He paid no attention to the insinuation,

but continued his explanation.
"You may recall," he said, "that I fell over two chairs and a doll carriage and stepped on a wooden ball that threw me on the back of my neck." "I recall it," she admitted. "It waked up all the neighbors as well as myself. What

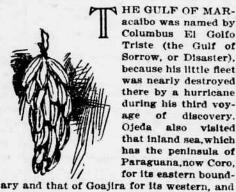
of it?"
"Nothing. Oh, nothing at all," he replied, sarcastically. "It was a small matter, but it annoyed me, and I made up my mind that if you couldn't teach the children to put their things away where they belong I would at least make arrangements so that I would know where they are when I come home after lodge meeting tonight. The

Beauties of Lake Maracaibo and Its Vicinity.

## VENEZUELA'S GREAT SEAPORT

An Ideal Home for Those Who Love Idleness.

LIFE IN THE GREAT LAGOON



HE GULF OF MARacaibo was named by Columbus El Golfo Triste (the Gulf of Sorrow, or Disaster), because his little fleet was nearly destroyed there by a hurricane during his third voyage of discovery. Ojeda also visited that inland sea, which has the peninsula of Paraguana, now Coro, for its eastern bound-

went through the narrow passage at present defended by the castle of San Carlos and a swarm of alligators, into the great and beautiful fresh water lake bearing still the Indian name Maracaibo, but called by Amerigo Vespucci, who accompanied Ojeda, Venicia, or in the Spanish language Venezuela, meaning Little Venice. This name, now applied to the whole country, was suggested by the fact that the Indian villages were built in the lake, upon piles, as is the city of Venice in its laguna. One of those veritable lake villages still remains, in prehistoric simplicity, situated about four miles below the city of Maracaibo, and bearing the Spanish name of Santa Rosa (Holy

Lake Maracaibo is 137 miles long and 75 Lake Maracalbo is 137 miles long and 75 miles wide, and receives tribute from several hundred rivers and smaller streams, principally of Andean origin. Many of these are navigable, as the Zulia, Catatumba, Bravo, etc., the former extending into Colombia and furnishing a route for the trans-



State House, Maracaibo.

portation of an increasing amount of excel-lent coffee, of both Venezuelan and Colom-bian growth, but classed as Maracaibo. The shores of the lake are usually rather The shores of the lake are usually rather low, except toward the south and the mountains, and this is true also of the long neck of brackish water connecting the lake body with the gulf. Along these bordering plains are extensive groves of coco palms, the source of easy wealth to their owners, giving also to the landscape by their stately grace a distinct and pleasing aspect. The palm is the characteristic tree of the tropics, as varied in its usefulness as it is singular in its beauty. Besides these frequent Examining a ticket of the Mont-de-Piete, the following conditions appear, which show the workings of the institution on its best side, namely, when people use it properly:

1. The length of the engagement is for one year.

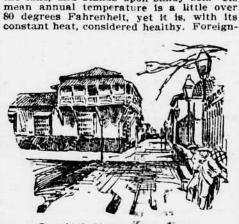
2. The administration to leave the month of the engagement is for one year.

3. The administration to leave the month of the engagement is for one year.

4. The administration to leave the month of the perfection and the forms of Corinthian architecture, and wonders that the English language could give so insufficient and poor a name as "cabbase palm" cient and poor a name as "cabbage palm" to the most finished tree in the world. The lakeside homes are all embowered in trees, usually bearing fruit, such as the orange, tamarind, sapodilla, mango, custard apple (anona squamosa), soursop (anona muricata), pomegranate, almond and fig, bread fruit (artocarpus incisa), the red and the white guava, the cashew, and the calabash and "lechosa" (carica papaya), the first bearing "summer squash" and the last a nectarous fruit of the size and appearnewed or withdrawn within a year is liable ance of a better cantaloupe than you ever ate. And among the coast fruit trees the morth. However, it is permitted the "uva de playa," or grape tree (cocloba morth). uvifera), should be specially noted. It most resembles a beech tree, and bears separate berries of the size, shape and flavor of grapes, which fall when ripe, and are much

relished. And less than a tree, but giving

tropical character to the coast scenery, is the prevalent and useful banana, furnishing almost without cost more nutriment per acre than is derived from twenty acres of A Fertile Land. When it is considered that this lake has over 400 miles of such shore line, with elongations up the principal streams, and that the fertile soil is invigorated by tropical heat and a degree of constant humidity, it becomes apparent that this portion of Venezuela is destined to sustain a dense and thriving population. It is also a healthy region, and one peculiarly attractive, especially as one approaches the foot-bilis of the Andes, south and east from the lake, and almost feels the magnificent snowpeaked mountain masses tower above him, and inhales from them a purer breath. The state of Zulia, which contains the great lake, contains also portions of the great mountains, upon one of which stands the ancient city of Merida, 5,308 feet above the lake-a city of 12,000 inhabitants, which before its destruction by earthquake in 1812 was the largest city in Venezuela, and is now renewing its prosperity, and anticipating railway communication 106 miles with a point of river and lake navigation. Near the foot of this lake, on its western shore, is the city of Maracaibo, the market for the products of the surrounding region and a considerable portion of Colombia. It is impossible to state accurately its population, but it probably exceeds 30,000. city is only a few feet above the level of the lake, and stands upon sandy soll. Its



Jesuit College,, Maracaibo.

ers who brave the midday heat, and retain a habit of inbibing brandy, can easily make the acquaintance of a cemetery, however. Within sight of the city are beautiful is-lands, far out in the lake to the east, hav-ing the painful interest, nevertheless, of containing a colony of lepers.

A Magnificent Harbor.

The harbor is perhaps the best in the country. The difficulty which needs to be surmounted is that the entrance to the low as not to admit vessels drawing over about twelve feet of water. There is probably a flue chance for some enterprising Yankee to obtain a valuable concession in connection with deepening and keeping this entrance open, which entrance appears to be more shallow than formerly, when British men-of-war made hostile visits to the lake, as also did other vessels known as

And it is worth remembering that two British war vessels were captured in Maracalbo harbor, where they lay at anchor, by Yenezuelan cavalry, a third one escaping. The feat was accomplished nearly a century ago by the gallant cavalry leader, Gen. Paez. He having hastily organized a troop of horse, and under cover of darkness swam out upon his horses to the vessels, swam out upon his horses to the vessels, abandoned them and scrambled aboard, surprising the sentries and securing the two vessels nearest the shore. The other slipped its cable and escaped. This unique

# CROWNED WITH HONOR.

The Great Presbyterian, Rev. Charles L. Thompson, D. D., of New York.



What Paine's Celery Compound Has Done for the Eloquent Preacher.

derful powers of making the sick to be well again an exceptionally forcible debater in all the church and fearless a clergyman should be heeded.

Rev. Father Ouellet, Rev. Dr. Meek, the editor of the "Central Methodist;" Rev. Dr. Baird, Rev. W. J. White, D.D., of the Georgia Baptist, are Dr. Thompson is a prodigious worker. He is one among the hosts of clergymen who have gratefully of the many thousands who have discovered what lasting cures of all these nerve and blood disorder fit to others, the ever true story of how this greatest of all remedies makes people well, building up stage of nervous exhaustion and who require a the shattered nerves, enriching the thin blood and | bealth-giving remedy that will speedily replenish |

rooting out disease. Rev. Charles L. Thompson, D.D., paster of the Mndison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York city, is a man crowned with honor. Before going to the celebrated church where he now preaches in New York he served in prominent pulpits in Cinhas written much and well on themes of public in- comfort." terest, presided over the continental general as- To the multitude who suffer from the enervating and restorer the world possesses.

and are juicier than much of the famed action saved the city from a forced contribution or from pillage. Florida fruit and have thin rinds and few Maracaibo, like most tropical cities, has parrow and therefore more easily shaded our people might enjoy at times varieties streets; its houses have thick walls and of delicate and strangely delicious fruits, high rooms, usually with an inner court, such as the soursop, the sapedilla and the and tiled roofs. They are commodious and



Government Buildings, Maracaibo. climate, and need little repair. The principal business and public buildings are near the lake side, for convenience, and present a stately and substantial appearance. Besides the shipments of coffee, skins, dye-wood, etc., there is considerable manufac-turing, and a large and increasing impor-tation for the city and the region around and beyond the lake. Small steamers ply between the city and distant lake pe between the city and distant lake ports, and there are constant movements of smaller sail vessels, bringing and carrying goods, many of which are the customary homes of families. But all business is don in such a leisurely way that there is seldom any bustle, fret or impatience, except in the rapid loading of the steamer with coffee. At 11 o'clock all work ceases until , for meals and the inevitable siesta, and workmen may be seen lying in the shade of the plaza trees, often with their heads pillowed on the laps of their wives. Sunstroke is unknown in the tropics, and in spite of the prevalent heat, the death rate of the state of Zulia, including Maracalbo city, is as low as in most of our states; while the number of persons in Venezuela of 100 to 125 years old averages in its total population about 20 per cent higher than in ours.

A Supply of Fine Fruits. Perhaps one of the most interesting features presented to us by the Maracaibo basin, together with the almost adjoining but slightly nearer area drained by the Magdalena river, is that relating to their capacity to furnish our increasing demand for the best tropical fruits, such as bananas, pine appies, oranges and others of which we see little at present. From Mo-bile and New Orleans, points through which the north and west will some time be better supplied, to the great possible fruit region of the Magdalena is only about 1,500 nautical miles, and to that of the Maracaibo little more than 1,600; in either instance less than the distance from New York city to Cheyenne, Wyo., or to the nearest point of the Rocky mountains. Already we receive excellent supplies of coffee through and from these regions, but by remote routes or foreign conveyance. Lines of steamers to carry our flour, pork, kerosene, canned goods, and in time our articles representing more skilled labor value, and to bring back to us coffee, ca cao, hides and skins, etc., would soon find abundant freight also in fruit of kinds and qualities superior to any now import-ed. For instance, no bananas now reach Washington, nor often New York, except they are grown. Not one in a thousand of cur people ever ate the right banana for raw use—one delicious and pleasant, and having no strong taste, plump even to bursting often; small and buttery in the

From no one class of men has Paine's celery com- sembly in Philadelphia, and has been often a com- effects of the warm weather in this climate, this pound received more unstituted praise for its won- missioner and chairman of leading committees and plain, straightforward statement from so eminent

> His large charity has made him a welcome representative of his church to other churches and to his brethren of other lands.

worn out by labor, who are suffering from some every state in the country. Physicians everywhere the system with proper nutriment.

Writing from New York on June 23, Dr. Thompson said:

"I think to the use of Paine's celery compound | Paine's celery compound. is due the fact that after a winter of exhausting work I have been able to carry my duties through cinnati, Chicago, Pittsburg and Kansas City. He | the enervating springtime with unusual case and | Dartmouth College scientist, stands today unquest

eeds. And with steam by sea and land

Thousands of wholly disinterested men and women saw their neighbors and townspeople made well by

vigorating the "run-down" system.

Paine's celery compound has put an end

It began at the very outset of its splendid career

to cure men and women of kidney troubles, liver

greeted the great remedy as the most enlightened,

most skillful means that could be employed for in-

enormous amount of sickness and disease

the patience, thoroughness and zeal of the great tioned as the greatest brain and nerve strengthener

mango. Perhaps these things will come to delight and benefit us when southern North America and northern South Amer-

ica, so near each other, shake hands com-Other Valuable Products. Meanwhile there are rare woods, like the mahogany, rosewood, valuable bitter cedar furniture and interior adornment, besides and name better known to us in time. Everything along the shores will slowly change, while the general features, dom-inated by the perpetual Andes, will remain as they have been since the first Indians built their lake dwellings within the scene. fruit, raise pigs and fowls on extemporized

islands in shallow waters, and enjoy an the bird sitting crosswise on a balmost effortless life in cabins ten feet branch. Here the glass came quie above the water, with palm-thatched roofs, play. reed-woven sides and reed-carpeted floors, with a notched log for a ladder up from the softly lapping waves and their rocking canoes; free from wild beasts, snakes, insects and cares of all kinds, relieved by abundant nature from want, and happy as

good-sized sunflowers. ALMONT BARNES.

A Study in Dinlects.

From the Cleveland Post. "If you want to study dialect shadings take a half dozen trips on one of the big consolidated cars," said a prominent lawyer who lives on the Cedar avenue branch of the line referred to. "You'll hear some of the queerest attempts at pronunciation you ever listened to. Yes, from the conductors. I've got so schooled in the different accents that I can tell in a moment when a new conductor is aboard. I understand a good many of these fare takers are Canadians. If that is so, Canada must be as full of dialects as the Austrian empire. My favorite test is on the word 'transfer.' In six trips I heard it pronounced six different ways. Let me try and reproduce

" 'Trainsfers.'

" 'Trawnsfers.' "Trinsfars." " 'Drunsvers.'

"The last example emanates, I am in-lined to think, from an official of German descent. All the other conductors were un-mistakably from some portion of the Brit-ish possessions. Listen the next time you go aboard a motor and see if you can conrect the dialect artist with his original nationality."

Almost Beyond Belief. From the Cleveland Leader.

"Do you see that woman there?" "Yes, what about her?" "Most remarkable case I ever heard of. She got on a street car yesterday, and, see-

waiting for the other passengers to shove Forcible, Not Clever.

ing a vacant seat near the center, went and took it without standing in the door and

From the Chicago Record. "That young dentist seems to be a clever

fellow." "Not much, he isn't. I went in his office to get a tooth pulled, and he treated me as if I had signed a contract to have him mur-der me."

This epoch-making discovery in medicine, due to

A CUCKOO SEEN UNAWARES.

In the Presence of Danger It Becomes Comfeally Long and Slim. From the Independent.

May I give you one of my own notes of bird study as a fair pattern to go by? It was a yellow-billed cuckoo's "Kuk-kukkuk, kauk, kau-uk!" rattled forth from a tall hedge near my house that called me forth glass in hand. The bird's voice was strong enough, there could be no doubt as to the part of the hedge whence it issued; and twenty other as choice varieties for but the bird itself; I looked and looked for it before I saw it. For this cuckoo has those which bear stores of vegetable wax, somewhat of the conjurer's eleverness in soap, etc., which will make the lake region | rendering itself invisible while yet unbidden by any physical barrier to vision. It is a slender and disproportionately elongated bird, having a protracted tail and a far-reaching lightly arched bill. Something in the blending of its pale, smoky plumage, its tints of gray, pale olive, brown and built their lake dwellings within the scene. And as the Indians are not there paternalized by government, nor scrambled over for their spiritual scalps, they will still farm the placid waters for excellent fish, wild bananas and other abundant at a sharp V-like angle. The attitude broke the speil of my vision, and revealed branch. Here the glass came quickly into

> For thirty-five minutes I slyly followed that curkoo, noting its every move. It was evidently quite unaware of me, and I was very careful not to attract its attention. Here are some notes made immediately after my observations:

The cuckeo has a way of letting its wings slightly droop while it sits quite still. It is then that it turns its head slowly in every direction, looking for worms, moths and the like amid the foliage. It has a drowsy expression; one might think it a stupid bird, and its movements are generally spiritiess. But the moment it generally spiritiess. But the moment i sees a worm on a leaf all is changed. Like a flash comes the stroke. And yet there is no rush nor noise. The thing is done with an ease and a facility amounting to absolute grace and promptness of motion. At the least suggestion of danger the cuckoo shuts all its feathers close and straightens itself. Then it is almost comically long and slim, looking starved and compressed and stiff, as if just pulled out of a very small hole, and appears to taper but slowly from bill to talliop. If another bird approaches it sometimes shows fight, but oftener shies sidewise or drops lower among the branches.

The Hat of the Period.



Hyde Park Loafer-"Want a gard'ner,